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TITLE: Method and system for synchronization of metadata in an information catalog

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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of synchronizing data stored on a data storage device connected to a computer, comprising the steps of: providing an information catalog storing a synchronizing time determining specific intervals; at said specific intervals, monitoring a tool that operates on an object to identify changes to metadata of that object; and when changes to the metadata are identified, updating said information catalog containing corresponding metadata for the object.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the objects is registered with said information catalog.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified intervals are specified by a user.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring includes monitoring a system function integral to a platform.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring includes monitoring a user-defined function.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring further comprises monitoring multiple tools.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data storage device is a first data storage device and wherein the information catalog resides on a second data storage device.
8. An apparatus for synchronizing data, comprising: an information catalog containing synchronizing times identifying specified monitoring intervals; a computer having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto that stores the data; and, one or more computer programs,

performed by the computer, for, at said specified monitoring intervals, monitoring a tool that operates on an object to identify changes to metadata of that object, and, when changes to the metadata are identified, updating said information catalog containing corresponding metadata for the object.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of the objects is registered with said information catalog.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the specified intervals are specified by a user.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more computer programs for monitoring a tool include a system function integral to the apparatus for monitoring a tool on a platform.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more computer programs for monitoring a tool include a software interface for incorporating user-defined-functions-for monitoring one of an existing and a new tool.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for monitoring a tool further comprises means for monitoring multiple tools.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the data storage device is a first data storage device and wherein the information catalog resides on a second data storage device.

15. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for synchronizing data stored on a data storage device, the method comprising the steps of; providing an information catalog; at specified intervals determined by synchronizing times stored in the information catalog, monitoring a tool that operates on an object to identify changes to metadata of that object; and when changes to the metadata are identified, updating said information catalog containing corresponding metadata for the object.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein each of the objects is registered with said information catalog.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the specified intervals are specified by a user.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the step of monitoring includes monitoring a system function integral to the metadata synchronizer for monitoring a tool on a platform.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the one or more computer programs for monitoring a tool include a software interface for incorporating user-defined functions for monitoring one of an existing and a new tool.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the monitoring further comprises monitoring multiple tools.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the data storage device is a first data storage device and wherein the information catalog resides on a second data storage device.

22. A metadata synchronizer for use with a system wherein objects are manipulated by tools for

synchronizing metadata of the objects with catalogued metadata of the objects stored in an information catalog, the metadata synchronizer comprising: a registry identifying a first object registered with the metadata synchronizer; a monitor for monitoring said tools at predetermined intervals to detect changes in the metadata associated with said first object; and, an updater for selectively updating the catalogued metadata of said first object stored in the information catalog when a change is detected to the metadata associated with said first object, wherein the registry is operative to register synchronizing times associated with the registered objects, said synchronizing times determining the redetermined intervals at which the monitor monitors the tool.

23. A metadata synchronizer for use with a system wherein objects are manipulated by tools for synchronizing metadata of the objects with catalogued metadata of the objects stored in an information catalog, the metadata synchronizer comprising: a registry identifying a first object registered with the metadata synchronizer; a monitor for monitoring said tools at predetermined intervals to detect changes in the metadata associated with said first object; and, an updater for selectively updating the catalogued metadata of said first object stored in the information catalog when a change is detected to the metadata associated with said first object, wherein the registry is operative to register timestamps associated with metadata of registered objects whereby the updater synchronizes with the most recently changed metadata.

24. A metadata synchronizer, for use with a system wherein objects are manipulated by tools for synchronizing metadata of the objects with catalogued metadata of the objects stored in an information catalog, the metadata synchronizer comprising: a registry identifying a first object registered with the metadata synchronizer; a monitor for monitoring said tools at predetermined intervals to detect changes in the metadata associated with said first object; and, an updater for selectively updating the catalogued metadata of said first object stored in the information catalog when a change is detected to the metadata associated with said first object, wherein the registry is operative to register parameters governing the metadata synchronizer system, said parameters including at least one of: a user identifier, a user password, a metadata location, an information catalog category corresponding to the metadata, and a tree structure regeneration option selection value.

25. A metadata synchronizer for use with a system wherein objects are manipulated by tools for synchronizing metadata of the objects with catalogued metadata of the objects stored in an information catalog, the metadata synchronizer comprising: a registry identifying a first object registered with the metadata synchronizer; a monitor for monitoring said tools at predetermined intervals to detect changes in the metadata associated with said first object; and, an updater for selectively updating the catalogued metadata of said first object stored in the information catalog when a change is detected to the metadata associated with said first object, the updater being operative to update the metadata to update at least one of a metadata header, a metadata definition area, and a metadata object area.